

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, PFOR, PL, US

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON POLAND'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

1. HERE IS THE TEXT OF PRESS GUIDANCE APPROVED FOR
POSSIBLE USE AT THE DEPARTMENT'S NOON BRIEFING
AUGUST 25:

BEGIN TEXT:

Q. THE CIA RECENTLY RELEASED A REPORT ON POLAND WHICH
SUGGESTS THAT POLAND IS IN SERIOUS ECONOMIC DIFFICULTY
AND COULD ASK FOR RESCHEDULING OF CREDITS IN THE NEAR
FUTURE? IS THIS CONCLUSION SHARED BY YOU?

A: LET ME POINT OUT THAT THE CIA REPORT IS NOT AN
OFFICIAL POLICY STATEMENT OF THE USG. IT IS A ROUTINE
CIA ECONOMIC RESEARCH REPORT THAT IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE
NORMAL INTERAGENCY CLEARANCE PROCESS THAT IS APPLIED TO
USG POLICY PAPERS.

Q. (IF ASKED) BUT DIDN'T POLAND JUST A FEW MONTHS AGO
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ASK FOR RESCHEDULING OF THESE CREDITS?

A: NO. POLAND ASKED FOR BETTER TERMS FOR CCC CREDITS

IN A VARIETY OF WAYS. POLAND HAS BEEN UTILIZING U.S.
CCC CREDITS FOR OVER A DECADE. THE POLISH GOVERNMENT
IS FULLY AWARE OF OUR CCC REPAYMENT TERMS AND HAS BEEN
MEETING THESE OBLIGATIONS REGULARLY.

Q. (IF ASKED) BUT WHAT ABOUT THE REPORT'S CONCLUSION
THAT POLAND WILL HAVE TO RESCHEDULE?

A: THE POLISH GOVERNMENT HAS CONSISTENTLY STATED THAT
IT WILL NOT SEEK RESCHEDULING. POLAND HAS UNDERTAKEN
A STRENUOUS POLICY TO RESTRAIN IMPORTS AND EXPAND EXPORTS
TO DEAL WITH ITS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, WHICH ARE NOT UNLIKE
THE PROBLEMS CURRENTLY ENCOUNTERED BY A NUMBER OF OTHER
COUNTRIES. WE ARE CONFIDENT IN THEIR DETERMINATION TO
MEET THEIR OBLIGATIONS.

END TEXT.

2. NO QUESTIONS ON THE SUBJECT HAVE ARISEN AT THE NOON BRIEFING AS OF AUGUST 28. SO FAR AS WE ARE AWARE THE STORY HAS APPEARED IN U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, UPI, PERHAPS ONE OR TWO FINANCIAL PUBLICATIONS. THE NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE HAS CARRIED A STORY BY DAVID BINDER BASED ON A BACKGROUND INTERVIEW GIVEN AT BINDER'S REQUEST ON AUGUST 24. CHRISTOPHER

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